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ROYAL CUMMINGS, Proprietor.
T. H. HOSKINS, M. D., Editor.

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CUTTING AND CURING HAY.

At a late meeting of the Union Farmers' Club of Lenox, Madison Co., N. Y., the subject of "Cutting and Curing Fodder" was considered. From the report of the discussion, we make the following extracts:

Mr. Ralph H. Avery recommended that clover, especially the small, be cut when about half the blossoms have appeared, but not when wet, or when the dew is upon the grass. When cut and little wilted, I put it in small cocks with a fork, and there let it remain several—say two or three—days, and then turn the cocks over, and stand a day or two longer. If there has occurred a shower of rain in the time, the cocks being small, it will dry out. Clover cured in this way retains all the leaves and flavor, and will be relished by any kind of stock. When fed in winter to cows they will give nearly as much milk as when at grass, and if kept in a warm stable, as they should be, for calves, colts, sheep or horses, it is a most excellent fodder. My rule for cutting timothy is when, and just when, the first blossom has fallen and before any appearance of seed. Then cut after the dew is off and grass dry. Cock up when well wilted—not cured to dryness—open the same an hour or so in the sun the next day, and then draw in the barn, the barn to be a snug one, with ventilation only through the roof, keeping barn doors always closed, except when obliged to be open while drawing in the hay. If hay has no water in it, except the juices in the grass, when cut, and is well wilted, and has a chance to sweat in the cock, and is placed in a snug barn, I have no fear of its being burnt in the mow or from mould, but if cut early, and cured and stored as stated, I am always sure of having hay that my stock like; my cattle keep in fine condition, hair bright and lively. In addition, I believe a timothy meadow cut thus early, will retain a thicker sod and improve, whereas by not cutting the grass until the seed is ripe, on some land the meadow will run out, and the sower be obliged to plow and re-seed; but by following the system of mowing thus early, and an occasional top-dressing of manure, a meadow will improve and be better from year to year. Medicinal herbs, when cured so as to retain their aroma and virtue as herbs, are always gathered when in flower, and are never dried in the

sun. So grasses should be cut when in flower, and cured so as to retain that fine color and flavor which every intelligent farmer likes as well as his stock does. Any farmer who follows this practice and notices the result, will never again wait for grass to ripen the seed before cutting, as is too often the practice.

General Bruce thought early cut grass the best, and in curing it the less sunshine and the most air on it, the better, and that it should be cured before going into the barn. In regard to young grass, he gave it as his opinion that cows liked it the best, and that it brought more milk.

The discussion having closed, the question of early, medium or late cutting of grass, &c., was put to a vote, when the question was decided in favor of early cutting by a large majority, a few being in favor of medium, while none were in favor of late.

At a meeting of the Guilford (Chenango Co., N. Y.) Farmer's Club, June 10th, the same subject was discussed.

Mr. Wm. Jewell stated that in the absence of his personal attention in the securing of his last hay crop he had suffered largely, and his stock still worse, and that in the future this must be attended to if much else is neglected, and asked what the amount would be lost in Guilford if the hay crop suffered in value three or four dollars per ton, in being cut too late or improperly secured? He says it must be cut early.

Mr. Edward Jewell said he wanted his hay to be put in early, and in a manner that it would heat and press together firmly without any water upon it, or but little sun, and then close the barn and exclude the air as much as possible. In this the Chair agreed with him.

Mr. H. A. Burlison also agreed that it must be cut early, but would like all cocked one night in the field before putting in the barn. He also urged the use of the hay tedder, and thought its use added materially to the worth of every ton of hay, as its drying was more equal and more dried by the air than by long continued rays of the sun,—no one disagreeing with him in this respect. All spoke highly of the tedder who had used it.

Messrs. Moore and Rood thought it a good time to cut grass late in the afternoon that it might be secured earlier the next day, as there would then be no dew on the grass or under on the ground, and if it rained the next day it would not be hayed to hurt it, and many times escape showers thereby.

CURING HAY.

Dr. P. Simonton of Maine, in some remarks regarding the curing of hay, divides the process into three methods, as follows:—
"1. The old method, which originated in the days of wooden pitchforks—the more drying the better; all the leaves and seeds dropped out and lost—all the fragrant aroma and nutrient juices gone into the air forever. This wooden pitchfork method, from all we can see and learn, is the very poorest, as it is the one still most common in practice.

Raking up and spreading out, over and over again, even in good weather, is about the idea of this over-drying method.

"2. Let the grass be sufficiently dried to remove all external moisture, and to wilt it well,—such as well stirring it in one day's sun will do; then put it in small bunches lightly forked up—not rolled—so to remain till the interior of the piles feels slightly warm; then for one day to be spread out and tended as during the first day, when, if the grass is reasonably ripe, and the weather tolerably good, it is fit for the barn. Two great advantages result from this method over the first; less labor, and saving the most valuable part of the hay,—the leaves, seed, and juices, which are largely lost in the other.

"3. When every particle of dew and all other outward dampness are off the grass, mow, and put it as soon as possible, without stopping for it to wilt,—certainly before any moisture comes upon it,—where it is to remain in the barn. When it is all in, or when for any reason the work is suspended for a few days, cover the top of the hay with a foot of straw or other cheap material. It is claimed for this method that it is a great saving of time and labor, and that every valuable property of the hay is saved; especially its juices, so nourishing and so relishable to the stock, and which serve as a natural pickle to preserve the hay. In a few days the hay heats and ferments, causing a dense steam to rise to, and lodge in, the upper foot of the heap, spoiling it; hence the use of the straw, to receive the steam and save so much hay.

"Last year many of the agricultural publications spoke of this new (No. 3) method, and advised a trial of it. But we do not so much allude to it here for that reason—for there is no absurdity so great that it does not have powerful advocates somewhere; the famous Farmers' Club of New York City, which so often sends out, through the *Tribune*, its wordy-wise and often ridiculous advice and instruction, being composed, it is said, of 'doctors without patients, lawyers without clients, and clergymen without parishes,'—but because it was last year tried in this locality, the results of which trial, if known, may lead to future profit. And the person who has tested the thing, who is a practical and intelligent farmer, has kindly furnished the following for publication:—

"Dr. P. SIMONTON.—*Dear Sir:* In reply to your inquiries respecting my experience in putting hay green into the barn, I will state that early in last haying season, before the grass was fully ripe, one morning, beginning at nine o'clock, the grass being perfectly free from dew and all outward moisture, I mowed, by machine, two tons of grass, which with the help of two boys I put upon the scaffold in my barn by two o'clock the same afternoon. That was all I did to it. It went through a process of heat and sweating which caused the upper layer, perhaps 10 or 12 inches thick, to spoil for eating purposes. All below this proved excellent hay; some of the leaves turned dark, but nearly all the useful parts, which are lost by the drying method,

being saved, it was very rich in fodder, and was much better relished by the stock than common dried hay. Specimens of it can now be seen on my premises, and at the Selectmen's office in this town. I intend to cure my hay in the same way this season on as large a scale as the weather will permit. Covering it with some cheap material, like straw or refuse hay, would be a saving. Thanking you and all who take an interest in these matters, I am

"Yours respectfully,

WM. M. LARRABEE.

"Searsport, June 24, 1869."

REMARKS.—We have always advocated cutting hay early, and drying it less than is the practice of many farmers. To properly secure the hay crop is the most important work the farmer is called upon to perform, and the want of judgment and common sense in conducting the labor causes the most serious losses. It will not do to advise farmers to follow Mr. Larrabee's method, and yet we are certain it is safe, and the best under proper conditions. During the dry, hot days in July, when but little dew drenches the grass in the morning, it may be safely cut and housed the same day. With the use of a hay-tedder and in the absence of dew in dry weather, two thirds of the hay grown upon any farm may be placed in the mow without cocking in the field, and the quality be much improved. Let farmers try some apparently hazardous experiments in a small way during the present season, in storing partially cured hay, and they will learn some most important and instructive facts.

WEIGHT OF WOMEN.

In a romance, even of this modern day, we read constantly of heroes magnanimously rushing off with fainting maidens from blazing houses, or more feloniously "carting" them on their shoulders for purposes of revengeful abduction. Let any one out of training, or under six feet high, and with proportionate strength, attempt to run away with a fairly well-composed girl of eighteen or twenty, and give us his opinion of the prowess of these vaunted knights. A woman weighing one hundred and forty pounds weight of womanhood is not to be carried at all. Even a slight girl will weigh a hundred pounds, and Rudolph or Horatio will stagger under her lovely but cumbersome figure, if he breaks out of a *staccato* walk. There are plenty of buxom girls who weigh up to a hundred and seventy pounds, and it is not given to every man to "hurry off" with such. When the victimized Squallina faints on the stage, the robust baritone takes care that the *evanouissement* shall be accomplished as close to the wing as possible. He knows what La Squallina weighs, by the sad experience of rehearsals. Let any of our readers carry his sister (he will probably prefer his cousin) up three flights of stairs, without stopping, and forward to us his sentiments on the occasion. Women weigh a good many pounds now-a-days, and their airiness of fabrication is a fallacy.